**AUGUST 16**

**Afterfeast of the Dormition**

**Translation of the Image “Not-Made-by-Hands” of our Lord Jesus Christ from Edessa to Constantinople**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 2**

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Thy sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

V. (6) *If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

**Tone 2** *(for the Dormition) (With what crowns)*

With what unworthy lips shall we bless the Theotokos?

She is more honored than the creation,

and more holy than the Cherubim and all the Angels.

She is the immovable Throne of the King,

the Abode in which the Most High has dwelt.

She is the salvation of the world, the Holy Place of God,//

Who richly grants unto the faithful great mercy on this her holy feast.

V. (5) *For Thy Name’s sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

What songs filled with awe

did all the Apostles of the Word offer thee, O Virgin,

as they stood round thy deathbed and cried aloud in wonder:

“The Palace of the King withdraws;

the Ark of Holiness is raised on high.

Let the gates be opened wide,

that the Gate of God may enter into abundant joy,//

she who without ceasing asks great mercy for the world!”

V. (4) *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

What spiritual songs shall we now offer thee, O most holy one?

For by thy deathless Dormition thou hast sanctified the whole world,

and hast been translated to the places above the world,

there to perceive the beauty of the Almighty,

and, as His Mother, to rejoice in it exceedingly.

Thou art attended by ranks of Angels and by the souls of the just, O pure Virgin.//

Join them to ask for us peace and great mercy!

V. (3) *For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

**Tone 2** *(for the Image) (With what crowns)*

With what eyes shall we who dwell on earth

gaze upon Thine image, O Christ,

upon which the hosts of Angels cannot look without fear,

for it flashes with rays of divine lightning?

Today it departs from a land of the godless

and journeys by the will of God to the royal city and the pious people,

where its arrival is greeted by all Orthodox Christians,//

who fall down before it in faith and fear.

V. (2) *Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

With what hands shall we who are earthly

touch Thine image, O Word?

How shall we, polluted in sin,

dare to gaze upon the face of our sinless God?

How shall we, paralyzed in corruption,

come before Him Who cannot be approached?

The Cherubim veil their faces, not daring to look upon Thee;

the Seraphim who carry Thee cannot gaze upon Thy glory.

All creation serves Thee in fear.

O merciful Christ, do not condemn us,//

who unworthily and with trembling venerate Thine image in faith!

V. (1) *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

The praiseworthy day of the Master has clearly appeared to us;

for He Who is enthroned on high

now looks down upon us through His most pure image.

He Who is above the Cherubim, upon Whom no one may gaze,

is made visible through His image

to those with whom He shares His own likeness,

formed ineffably by the immaculate finger of the Father according to His likeness.//

As we worship it with faith and love we are sanctified.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 8** *(for the Image)*

Great is the depth of Thy providence,

O Master, Who lovest mankind,

for, bestowing Thy bounties upon Thy creation generation after generation,

Thou hast depicted an image of Thy most pure face,

which Thou didst send to faithful Abgar, who desired to see Thee,

Who art invisible in Thy divinity even to the Cherubim,

so that, gazing upon the image of Thee,

Who for our sake becamest incarnate and didst willingly suffer,

we may be set aflame with Thy love,//

which Thou hast poured out on us for the sake of Thy great mercy.

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 8** *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

The King of heaven, because of His love for man,

appeared on earth and dwelt with men.

He took flesh from the pure Virgin

and after assuming it, He came forth from her.

The Son is one: in two natures, yet one Person.

Proclaiming Him as perfect God and perfect Man,

we confess Christ our God!//

Entreat Him, O unwedded Mother, to have mercy on our souls.

**Aposticha**

**Tone 4** *(for the Dormition) (Thou hast given a sign)*

Thou wast not taken from the earth in a chariot of fire

as was the righteous Elijah,

but He Who is truly the Sun of Righteousness

received thy most holy soul into His hands.

Thou hast come to final rest in His abode, O most pure one,//

assumed in honor and grace in an ineffable and wondrous manner.

V. *Arise, O Lord, into Thy rest, Thou and the Ark of Thy sanctification! (Ps. 131:8)*

Come, O lovers of feasts,

celebrate today the holy passage of the Mother of God,

for in joy she has commended her most pure and godly soul

into the hands of her Son,

Who shone from the unoriginate Father before all ages,

and in the last days came forth from her womb,

even Jesus our God,//

Whom she ceaselessly begs to save us.

V. *The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which He will not turn back.*

*(Ps. 131:11a)*

Oh, the most awesome wonder!

She who carried the King in her most pure womb,

now is laid to rest in the tomb

and the assembly of Angels with the Apostles

bury her honorable body in fear.

But she has been taken up into heaven//

by Jesus, her Son, the Savior of our souls.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 6** *(for the Image)*

Thou didst become flesh just as Thou didst desire, O Lord;

Thou didst will to accept our poverty,

and Thou didst show Thy abundant compassion,

by which Thou didst deify me who am dust.

We glorify Thee, O Lover of man,

as we behold Thy providence through seeing an icon of Thy image.

By this grant Thy servants unhindered entrance into Eden, O Savior,//

overlooking all our transgressions!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 8** *(for the Dormition, by the Emperor Leo the Wise)*

Jesus, thy Son and our God, O Theotokos,

confirming His two natures,

dies as a Man and arises as God.

And it was His good pleasure, O Mother of God,

that thou also die,

lest unbelievers consider His dispensation but a fantasy.

Thou wast translated to the heavenly realm, O celestial Bride,

taken up from the earth as a bride from her chamber where she dwells.

The air was sanctified by thy passage,

just as the earth was illumined by the One Who was born of thee.

The Apostles send thee forth, and the Angels bear thee up.

As they buried thine all-pure body, singing funeral hymns for thee,

they gazed in awe and spoke with fear:

“This change is from the right hand of the Most High,

for He dwelt within thee, yet thou hast remained unchanged.

O all-hymned Mother, cease not to watch over us,

for we are thy people and the sheep of thy pasture;

and we call upon thy name,//

asking salvation and great mercy for thy sake!”

**Tone 2** **Troparion** *(Image)*

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One;

and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God.

Of Thine own will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh

and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy.

Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee:

“Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior,//

by coming to save the world.”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 1** **Troparion** *(Dormition)*

In giving birth thou didst preserve thy virginity.

In falling asleep thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos.

Thou wast translated to life, O Mother of Life,//

and by thy prayers thou dost deliver our souls from death.

***(at the Divine Liturgy)***

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**Tone 2** **Kontakion** *(Image)*

Uncircumscribed Word of the Father,

as we behold the victorious image of Thy true incarnation,

not made by hands, but divinely wrought

in Thine ineffable and divine dispensation towards us,//

we honor it with veneration.

**Tone 2** **Kontakion** *(Dormition)*

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos,

who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions.

For being the Mother of Life,//

she was translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her virginal womb.

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon** *(Image)*

Sing to the Lord a new song, / for the Lord hath done marvelous things! *(Ps. 97:1)*

V. *All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. (Ps. 97:5)*

**Tone 3** **Prokeimenon** *(Song of the Theotokos)*

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. *(Lk. 1:46-47)*

**Epistle**

(119) Romans 15:30-33

(250) Colossians 1:12-18 *(Image)*

**Tone 4**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. *O Lord, we will walk in the light of Thy countenance, and will exult in Thy Name forever.* *(Ps. 88:15)*

V. *I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation. (Ps. 88:1-2)*

**Tone 8**

V. *Arise, O Lord, into Thy rest, Thou and the Ark of Thy sanctification! (Ps. 131:8)*

**Gospel**

(73) Matthew 17:24-18:4

(48-ctr) Luke 9:51-56; 10:22-24 *(Image)*

***(Instead of “It is truly meet…,” we sing:)***

The Angels, as they looked upon the Dormition of the Virgin,

were struck with wonder,

seeing how the Virgin went up from earth to heaven.

The limits of nature are overcome in thee, O Pure Virgin:

for birthgiving remains virginal, and life is united to death;

a virgin after childbearing and alive after death,

thou dost ever save thine inheritance, O Theotokos.

**Communion Hymn**

O Lord, we will walk in the light of Thy countenance, and will exult in Thy Name forever. *(Ps. 88:15)*

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. *(Ps.* *115:4)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Orthodox Church in America.*